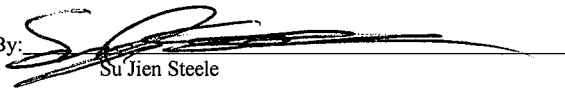


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed via  
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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: 16869S-094000US  
Client Ref. No.: W1153-01EJ

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By:   
Su Jien Steele

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

Hideomi IDEI et al.

Application No.: 10/656,096

Filed: September 5, 2003

For: MANAGEMENT SERVER FOR  
ASSIGNING STORAGE AREAS TO  
SERVER, STORAGE APPARATUS  
SYSTEM AND PROGRAM

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 9922

Examiner: Brian J. Gillis

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2141

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 6, 2007, please enter the  
following amendments and remarks:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this  
paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 14 of this paper.